DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Sunday, November 23, 2025

KARACHI

Sunset	05:43 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	06:53 am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	15°C
Maximum	30°C
Humidity	54%
Outlook	Sunny

Nawaz, Sahibzada star as Pakistan romp past Sri Lanka

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CM vows to protect rights of children

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Members of civil society, government officials and a large number of students on Saturday joined a walk to spread awareness and safeguard the rights of children.

The participants gathered at the Seaview to take part in the event held to mark World Children's Day.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah led the awareness walk, reaffirming his government's resolve to safeguard children's rights and ensure their well-being.

The event, organised by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), aimed to highlight issues related to children's rights, protection, education and welfare. Citizens participating in the walk praised the government's ongoing efforts for child protection across Sindh.

During the walk, the chief minister interacted warmly with children and said they are the nation's most valuable asset.

"Children are our future, and protecting their rights remains our top priority," he said. "We want a society where every child feels safe, confident and empowered. The world is beautiful because of children, and it becomes even more beautiful with their love and proper upbringing," he added.

Speaking to the media, the chief minister said he had recently chaired a meeting on the alarming number of out-of-school children, and announced that a special programme has been launched to bring them back into the education system.

"Our goal is to reduce the number of out-of-school children by half within the next three years," he stated, urging philanthropists to support newly introduced digital learning schools.

On child protection, he said the provincial government treats child abuse cases with utmost seriousness.

CHIEF Minister Murad Ali Shah leads the awareness walk on Saturday.—PPI

Adab Festival opens with animated debate on revival of reading habit

Masoom Thari, Dr Najeeba Arif and M. Athar Tahir receive Infaq Foundation literary awards

By Shazia Hasan

KARACHI: Unlocking a world of expression, be it literature, culture, art or music along with people who are the creators and lovers of all these things, the two-day 10th Adab Festival opened at Habitt City on Saturday to book talks, book launches, interesting discussions and close encounters with authors from as young as 11 years old to septuagenarians and octogenarians.

At the inauguration, Ameena Saiyid, the founder of the festival, said that when she and the late Asif Farrukhi started literary festivals, first with the Karachi Literature Festival and then the Adab Festival, they wanted to turn writers and authors into rock stars. "And I even saw it happening when I watched a crowd of fans surrounding Amar Jaleel and Mustansar Hussain Tarrar a few years later," she said, adding that their other aim was to bring back the habit of reading in children.

Speaking on the occasion, poet and writer Kishwar Naheed congratulated Ameena for finding a place for literary festivals in a city like Karachi where people are more interested in partying and eating out. Dr Ishrat Husain said that he was concerned about the literary festival movement when Ameena left OUP and when Asif Farrukhi also passed away but here is the Adab Festival going strong in its 10th edition.

Author Shandana Minhas said that she would like to acknowledge and celebrate all of our heritage all of the time, openly, and such festivals are doing just that. Zehra Nigah also said that 'Adab' which translates to several meanings such as etiquette, discipline, manners, respect and decorum, is the basis of civilisation. "You will leave this festival with a positive mindset," she said.

The inauguration ceremony also included the announcement of the 2025 Infaq Foundation-Adab Festival Literary Awards of Rs300,000 each in Sindhi, Urdu and English, which went to Masoom Thari, Dr Najeeba Arif and M. Athar Tahir, respectively.

According to Sohail Ayub of Infaq Foundation, from next year they would also include a Balochi language award on Ameena's suggestion.

It was a sentimental moment when Shayma Saiyid sang a touching tribute, '*Tum Yaad Aaye*', in memory of all the luminaries and those who had a part in the Adab Festival, who have passed away from 2020 to 2025.

A range of thought-provoking simultaneous sessions covering subjects ranging from Urdu literature, progressive politics, and cultural heritage to art, history and education followed.

At 'Tree Garden', an area reserved for music and children's activities and sessions, it was a joy to meet Arshaan Lakhani, the "youngest" author of Pakistan, who penned his novel *Kidnapped* at the age of only nine. More activities for children included some seven short and long sessions by Atif Badar. These comprised two short improvisational theatre plays, interactive theatre workshops, dramatic story-telling sessions and the singing of Sohail Rana's songs with school students and teachers.

There was also a bookmaking session with Ameena Saiyid and a dedicated Creative Writing Workshop titled 'The Storymakers Studio' for teenagers, conducted by Taha Kehar.

At Arena, writer Noorul Huda Shah delved into 'The Cultural Relationship of Sindh with the River and the Sea' with climate change expert Naseer Memon, activist Zubaida Bhiwani and folk singer and musician Saif Samejo.

A gripping book talk on Zahid Hussain's *A Dialogue with History* and *Face to Face with Benazir* took place where Dr Omair Ahmed Khan and Dr Nafisa Shah joined the author for an insightful conversation on Pakistan's political landscape.

The brothers Syed Muhammad Taqi and Rais Amrohvi must be smiling in heaven as their grandchildren took the stage to discuss Taqi's book *Karbala: Tehzeeb Ka Mustaqbil,* which has recently been translated into English by granddaughter and journalist Sumera Naqvi as *The Future of Civilisation*. She was joined by her brother, the policy and

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Transport body chief escapes from City Courts after bail dismissal

By Ishaq Tanoli

KARACHI: Dumper Truck Owners Association President Liaquat Mehsud managed to escape the premises of City Courts after a sessions court dismissed his pre-arrest bail application in a rioting case on Saturday.

Mehsud, along with his other associates, has been booked in a case pertaining to opening fire on people protesting against a fatal accident involving a dumper on the night between Nov 3 and Nov 4 in the Nishtar Road area. On the next day, the suspect had moved the court and got interim pre-arrest bail.

On Saturday, Additional District and Sessions Judge (South) Irshad Hussain rejected the pre-arrest bail application and also recalled his interim bail after hearing both sides and examining the record.

The court noted that the act of indiscriminate firing on people by a guard of the applicant was an act of terrorism and the case should be exclusively tried by an anti-terrorism court.

The suspect appeared in court and as soon as the order was announced he managed to escape from the court premises and police as well as the investigating officer (IO) failed to arrest him.

In its order, the court stated that as per the footage produced by the IO, the applicant along with his guard was present at the scene and the latter opened straight fire at the people, which created terror, fear and insecurity among the public.

It also noted that the permit of the weapon used in the crime was also not valid as it had expired in September.

The court observed that although no one sustained firearm injuries, the act of indiscriminate firing on the people amount to use of lethal force in public.

It said that the case came within the ambit of Section 6 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 and there were reasonable grounds to believe that the suspect has committed the offences of terrorism, rioting and attempted murder.

Initially, the FIR against Mehsud was lodged under Sections 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon), 149 (every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed) and 337-H (ii) (rash or negligent act to endanger human life) of the Pakistan Penal Court against the dumpers association's head at Garden police station.

Dumper runs over, kills biker

KARACHI: A motorcyclist was killed and his pillion rider injured when a dumper hit their two-wheelers on Superhighway on Saturday, officials said.

Malir Cantt SHO Agha Abdul Rasheed said that the accident occurred near Zakaria Goth. The deceased was identified as Shahid and injured as Sohail.

The driver responsible for the fatal accident was identified as Fazal. The police arrested him and impounded the heavy vehicle.

Woman dies in hit-and-run

A woman was killed in a hit-and-run accident in the Sultanabad area on Saturday, according to police and rescue services officials.

They said that the driver of a fast-moving car hit the woman on M. T. Khan Road and escaped.

She sustained critical injuries and was taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre in a private car, where she died during treatment. —Staff Reporter

Beyond the Bomb: Munir Ahmed and Pakistan's Nuclear Odyssey launched

Author Farhatullah Babar says trajectory of Pakistan changed after Bhutto appointed Munir PAEC chairman

KARACHI: Perhaps the most interesting session on the Adab Festival's first day, was the one in which former senator Farhatullah Babar's book *Beyond the Bomb: Munir Ahmed and Pakistan's Nuclear Odyssey* was launched.

The session was moderated by Omar Aziz Saiyid and also featured journalists Mazhar Abbas and Azaz Syed besides the author.

The book is not just a biography. It is a meditation on ethics, secrecy and the civil-military fault lines that continue to define South Asia's nuclear posture. It is a timely and essential account for researchers, policy makers and academia seeking to understand the further tilt in the civil-military equation towards the military after the Pakistan-Saudi Defence Pact and the 27th Amendment and its implications for peace and security in the region and the world.

The book pays tribute to a towering but unsung nuclear hero on the one hand while raising unspoken issues in command, control and civilian oversight on the other.

Starting with Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was Pakistan's president in 1972, summoning the cream of scientists and engineers to a secret conference in Multan a month after the dismemberment of the country in December 1971, to task them to build the bomb 'no matter what the cost', the book describes how Bhutto's vision was transformed into reality by Munir Ahmad Khan, who led the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) for nearly two decades from 1972 to 1991.

"In January of 1972, we were still mourning the loss of East Pakistan. We were demoralised. And Bhutto called all these scientists to inform them that China had become an atomic power and India would also follow suit, but can we also do it? To this some said we could, and some were of the view that we couldn't. Some said maybe in five years, some said maybe in 10. But Bhutto raised his three fingers to indicate to them that he wanted it happening in three years," said Senator Babar.

"There was a young man standing quietly by himself to one side in all this. He was Munir Ahmad Khan, whom the president appointed there and then as the chief of the PAEC. The then chairman of PAEC, Ishrat Hussain Usmani, there since 1960, only stood up then to congratulate Munir Ahmad Khan. The trajectory of Pakistan changed after that," he said.

But he lamented how Munir Ahmad Khan remained uncelebrated while someone like President Pervez Musharraf, who had no role in Pakistan's nuclear capability and who was also involved in a major nuclear proliferation scandal, was given a state funeral.—By Shazia Hasan

Mayor gives contractors 15 days to rebuild damaged roads

Orders expeditious solarisation of street lights

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI: Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Saturday issued a warning to officials and contractors, declaring that those who failed to perform their duties would face strict action. He gave them a 15-day deadline to complete the repair work on city roads, which had been damaged in the last monsoon rains.

Chairing a meeting of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) Engineering Department, the mayor made it clear that negligence, delays, or substandard works would not be tolerated under any circumstances.

In the meeting, which was attended by municipal commissioner S.M. Afzal Zaidi, financial adviser Gulzar Abro, senior director engineering Junaid Ullah Khan, director media Danial Siyal, and others, the mayor reviewed the status of ongoing development projects and situation of funds release.

A statement issued after the meeting said that the mayor reiterated that no project bill should be passed without third-party verification, stressing that transparency and quality were non-negotiable.

Officials briefed him on the District Annual Development Programme (ADP) schemes, Parovincial ADP initiatives, CLICK projects, and various emergency works.

Senior director engineering Junaid Ullah Khan presented updates on current schemes, while financial adviser Gulzar Abro confirmed that the Sindh government had released the necessary funds.

"With funds available, there is no justification for delays," the statement quoted the mayor as saying.

"Any officer or contractor showing negligence will not be spared. All departments have to ensure the completion of all schemes by June 30 to provide maximum relief to citizens."

The City Council in June 2025 approved a Rs55.28bn KMC budget for the year 2025-26. The total expenditures were estimated at Rs55.13bn, showing a surplus of Rs146.272m.

The city budget allocated investments in the medical and health services (Rs7.29bn), development projects, including the World Bank-funded CLICK (Competitive and Livable City of Karachi) project (Rs7.43bn), municipal services (Rs5.30bn) and infrastructure under the district ADP schemes (Rs9bn).

He also ordered the expeditious solarisation of street lights, calling it an essential step for improving urban services. Addressing the condition of roads damaged in the recent rains at the meeting, the mayor said all such roads must be fully repaired within 15 days, adding that those failing to meet the deadline "should be ready to go home".

Mr Wahab, the statement said, emphasised that the development of Karachi must remain top priority, and any compromise in this regard would invite immediate action.

Bids invited for Jahangir Road reconstruction

KARACHI: The KMC has announced that it has formally initiated the tender process for the rehabilitation of Jahangir Road along with the reconstruction of the adjoining storm water drain to resolve one of the city's long-standing civic issues.

After completing all internal formalities, technical evaluations, and obtaining the required approvals, the tender for the Jahangir Road rehabilitation project had now been floated. Bids have officially been invited for the hiring of contractors, said a statement.

The project carries an allocation of Rs300 million, fully funded through the KMC's own resources. This financial allocation was approved by the KMC Council.

"The project aims to reconstruct and strengthen Jahangir Road on a long-term and sustainable basis, bringing lasting relief to commuters and residents who have long suffered due to road deterioration and inadequate drainage infrastructure," added the statement.